

Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions

El Paso Natural Gas Company -AZA-29140
NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-2013-0017-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: *Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO)*

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: *AZA-29140*

Proposed Action Title/Type: *ROW Amendment for Groundwater Monitoring Well*

Location of Proposed Action: *Gila & SRM, T. 2 S., R. 6 W., Section 13: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$,*

Description of Proposed Action: El Paso Natural Gas Company (EP-NGC) has applied to amend their existing R/W grant AZA-29140 to include rights to drill an additional ground water monitoring well. The project consist of 1,100 feet down gradient of existing monitoring well, MW 17 located in the E1/2SW1/4NE1/4 of Section 13, T. 2 S, R. 6 W, G&SRM. Access with equipment to the site will be down existing terrain, approximately 1,500 feet from the existing Agua Caliente Road. Attached drawing reflects a 20 foot wide road. No blading will be done for access or the well pad; finish well pad will be 12 feet by 12 feet.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: *Lower Gila South*

Date Approved/Amended: **6/1/1988**

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

The Lower Gila South Record of Decision allows for a variety of actions including rights-of-way (ROW), communication sites, easements, permits, and unauthorized occupancy.

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9: BLM NEPA Handbook H1790-1(E-13). Amendments to existing rights of way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right of way boundary. (J-3) Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigation, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 11.9 apply.

I considered a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations. I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

D: Signature

Review: *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects (see Attachment 1). Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

Prepared by: _____/S/_____

**Ben Parsons
Project Lead**

Reviewed by: _____/S/_____

**Leah Baker
Planning & Environmental Coordinator**

Approved by: _____/S/_____

**Emily Garber
Manager**

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:
Leah Baker 623-580-5656 or Ben Parsons (623) 580-5637.

BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances¹
Attachment 1

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No the project is an amendment of an existing agreement.
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendments to existing rights of way, which entail no additional disturbances outside the right of way boundary.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A Existing
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A existing no additional disturbances outside the right of way boundary
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A Existing
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A Existing
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No significant impacts, and culture study has been completed on the existing amendment

¹ If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A Existing
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A Existing
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A Existing
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A Existing
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A Existing

Decision
Attachment 2

Project Description:

El Paso Natural Gas Company (EP-NGC) has applied to amend their existing R/W grant AZA-29140 to include rights to drill an additional ground water monitoring well. Project consist of 1,100 feet down gradient of existing monitoring well, MW 17 located in the E1/2SW1/4NE1/4 of Section 13, T. 2 S, R. 6 W, G&SRM. Access with equipment to the site will be down existing terrain following a near as possible southerly direct route approximately 1,500 feet to the side from existing Agua Caliente Road. Attached drawing reflects a 20 foot wide road, but it is based on vehicle carrying equipment to the site. No blading will be done for access or the well pad. Finish well pad will be 12 feet by 12 feet.

Decision: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 401 West Washington Street, Suite 404, Phoenix Arizona 85003, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

Approved By: _____/S/_____ **Date:** _5/14/2013__

Emily Garber

Manager